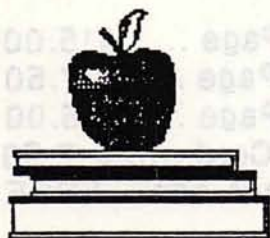


# SMLACE INTERFACE

July 1987

SANTA MARIA / LOMPOC ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

## NEW SLETTER NAMED Pam Duke Wins Contest



An apple for the teacher for her winning entry in the Newsletter Name Contest. Actually, Pam won \$25 for her submission of SMLACE INTERFACE, which now appears on the cover of our newsletter.

The entry "Delete/Backspace" came in second and was submitted by Todd Miller. Thanks to both of you and the many others who submitted entries. It is a good feeling to know that members of the club besides the officers do really care and are willing to participate in the activities.

The officers are considering a raffle to give away an ST system this fall for the Christmas season, but we need to know if you are willing to participate by selling tickets. Let one of the officers know how you feel and if you are willing to participate.

Remember, no participation, no raffle and that means that someone will not get an ST from Santa for Christmas. Tell us how you feel -- one way or the other -- SOON!

### What kind of member are you?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay at home - then criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to only just belong?

Think this over member, you know what's right from wrong.

Are you an active member - or do you just belong?

*Reprinted from the August 1986 issue of DAL-ACE*

## SWAP MEET

by Gary Stotts

If you would like to sell something at the swap meet, we charge \$2.00 to sell. That is a flat fee and if you sell \$1000 worth of 'junk' it is still the same. If you want to just come and browse it is free.

We really need you to bring that old software and hardware to the Swap Meet! Last year we didn't have very many sellers. Please make an effort!

### Swap Meet Rules

1. All software must be on the original disk with original documentation.
2. No pirated copies of software will be allowed. Anyone caught with pirated software will be asked to leave the meeting and possibly the club.
3. No copying of copyrighted disks will be allowed at the Swap meet.

Bring your old or unused software and hardware to the Swap Meet and sell or trade it with other people who are looking for the old but great and now hard to find program.

The Swap Meet is a great place to meet new friends and find those rare, hard to find programs that you always wanted but never could find.

Come join the fun on July 1.



The SANTA MARIA LOMPOC ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS is an independent ATARI Computer Users Group.

Meetings are held the First Wednesday of Each Month at the Oak Knoll Bowl in Santa Maria, at 7:00 p.m.

Memberships include a Subscription to this Newsletter and free access to the Users Disk and Technical Library, and are \$20.00 / year

ALL correspondence including Articles and Exchange Newsletters should be addressed to:

S.M.L.A.C.E.  
P.O. Box 2286  
Santa Maria, Ca 93455

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Gerry Stotts 937-4830

### VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Ramm 937-0853

### SECRETARY

Jim Keenan 937-6750

### TREASURER

Ray Vigeant 922-7292

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mike Jacobson 925-9390

### 8-BIT LIBRARIAN

Phil Pacheco 937-2608

### ST LIBRARIAN

Doug Hadland 735-8067

### BBS SYSOP

Pat Signs 937-3718

## TREASURE CHEST BBS

937-0245

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page ..... \$15.00

Half Page ..... \$ 7.50

Qtr. Page ..... \$ 5.00

Bus. Card ..... \$ 2.50

Member Ads . FREE

Discount Rates Available  
Contact Editor for Info

All advertising must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter

This newsletter is written and printed by members of the Santa Maria - Lompoc ATARI Computer Enthusiasts, an association of individuals with a common interest...Using and Programming the ATARI Computers. This group is not in any way affiliated with ATARI, INC., nor with any other commercially oriented organization. Any Logos, Trademarks or Company Names are used either with permission or as an informal method of referring to a product or company. All articles are written and donated by the membership and no guarantees are made as to the accuracy and validity of any information contained herein. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual author and do not necessarily represent, nor reflect the opinions of the Santa Maria - Lompoc ATARI Computer Enthusiasts, nor those of any other commercial or non-commercial organization. Any article appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced, providing credit is given to the author and to the Santa Maria - Lompoc ATARI Computer Enthusiasts.

## CALANDER of comming events

Wed. July 1 - SWAP MEET-DISK PARTY  
S.M.L.A.C.E. & ST SIG  
Oak Knoll Bowl 7 pm

Wed. Aug 5 - SMLACE Gen. Meeting  
Oak Knoll Bowl 7 pm

August - ST SIG Meeting  
Time and Place to be  
Announced -



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

*by Jim Keenan*

The June meeting was held at the Quality Inn on Wednesday the 3rd. There were eighty plus people there (head count courtesy of Steve Ramm). The meeting opened with Gerry going over and handing out the usual monthly brochures.

The meeting was then turned over to Mary McCullough of Disk Publications. Mary held everyone's attention for an hour with her demonstration of "The New Aladdin Collection" a bi-monthly magazine. For the 8-bit Atari it is a three disk double sided program consisting of entertainment and information.

The price for an annual subscription is \$79.95, for six issues. If you had signed up at the June meeting you would have received an extra issue, for a total of seven. Or you may buy back issues for \$19.95 a copy.

The 8 o'clock ten minute break turned into an hour while new subscribers signed up. After the break Mary gave a short demonstration of the Aladdin Magazine on the ST.

The member only drawing, a disk-of-the-month, was won by Phil Pacheco. There were four door prizes, ST Log, Analog Magazine, a game, and a pair of earphones.

Sharon Bracken won first prize in the raffle, and selected a volume of Aladdin Magazine. Second prize in the raffle, five ST disks, was won by Glen Woods.

The voting was held for the

## New Aladdin Magazine

*by Gerry Stotts*

We had a VERY nice turn out for the Aladdin Magazine presentation last month.

I would like to thank each and every one of you that made the effort to come join us and make this possible. Special thanks to those that traveled long distances (Lompoc, San Luis, etc.).

We had a nice surprise from Aladdin. We spent a lot of money for the meeting room and the large screen TV, but the Disk Publications people are supposed to give us \$10 for each subscription to the Aladdin Magazine.

If ANY of you decide to subscribe, PLEASE mention the club name and we will receive \$10. This offer is good for July and August. After that the club will receive \$5 if you mention our name when subscribing.

The really great news is that if you would like to receive a free subscription to the Aladdin. All you have to do is get 20 people to join the SM/LACE club!!! Now, lets see... who do I know... (Must be within the next year).

name of our NEWSLETTER. SMLACE INTERFACE won, and Pam Duke received \$25.00 for submitting the winning name. (Pam had a choice of the money or a modem).

Jim Erlich of Paradise Computer Systems had a show and tell for the ST group, of the latest programs he was carrying.

## PREZ SEZ

*by Gerry Stotts*

This is the meeting of our swap meet! Dust off all that hardware and software (original only!) and original documentation and bring it down to the Oak Knoll Bowl!

We will also have the disk libraries (no I didn't stutter!) at the meeting.

If you want to get some of those programs from the library for your 8-bit or 16-bit, this is the month.

We will have Doug Hadland with a 520ST to copy the ST disks and Phil Pacheco with the 8-bit library.

We will not be giving away a 130XE this year. We didn't get going on it and I really wanted to give away an ST anyway! We will see about this for a Christmas giveaway.

Next month we will have Phillip Price (of Alternate Reality fame!) at our meeting! He will be demoing and talking to you and may be able to answer a few questions.

I hope to see ALL your smiling faces at the swap meet.

- Gerry -



swap meet  
July 1 7 pm



## VPSAYS

Ab2vA2

*by Steve Ramim*

Now that everyone has seen the new Aladdin you may be interested in knowing how some of the neat things are done. Well...the programs aren't copy protected and... they are in basic, so...why don't you look?

I have to warn you though, you may be disappointed or at least surprised to find how simple some of the effects are. All of this is not to detract from there efforts though. It takes a lot of effort to package and develop the entire package to look as good as it does.

My point is that one automatically assumes that the neat stuff is very complicated esoteric computer programming, but sometimes it's simple programming combined bit by bit with a great deal of imagination --- something we can all do.

Now that I've dug myself a hole lets see if I can climb out. We have a program in our library. I've mentioned it before, we even had it recently on a disk of the month. It's the picture printing program. This program draws a display on the top of the screen with options below. When you pick an option the list disappears below the display like a window shade and a new sub menu comes down like a window shade. Sound familiar? Take a look at how it's done.

The cursor is positioned on the top line of the menu and then that line is deleted. That causes the lines below it to move up one line. So repeat the process and it looks like a window shade as all the lines disappear into an invisible hole in the middle of the screen. If you had inserted a line instead then everything would have scrolled down off the bottom of the screen. If you inserted a line at the top and then deleted a line at the bottom of the list...you guessed it; everything would window shade into a hole at the bottom of the list.

Or you could erase it like a blackboard by writing blanks to the screen in the spots where the list appeared. These are simple programming elements but it's the imagination and effort that make them magic on the screen.

So, now we have this blank screen and we want to scroll information down just the opposite of what was done earlier. Position and write a line of information to the screen and then insert a line at the same position. This shoves the existing line down. Just keep doing this and the new menu appears like pulling down a window shade.

Normally we would just print to the screen and the first line would appear then the next and the next below it. The lines themselves wouldn't move on the screen but would just appear as if a covering was removed from over them. In Aladdin they have small boxes in the

center of the screen that have scrolling writing on the screen while the rest of the screen remains the same.

There are many ways you can achieve this. A simple way that I do this in a program that I wrote is to redraw or print the entire screen line and just change the information in the box. My screens are not as filled as Aladdins but the effect is the same.

When the same information is printed over itself, it doesn't change but the letters inside the box change and the effect is that I have a window.

Moving right along into other oddities ... I'm beginning to realize that the undocumented "features" of a program are as important if not more so than the obvious ones. These bugs are riddles and puzzles of a sort. They keep you from doing the obvious or logical and you can get done what you want if you can only figure out how the program is interpreting the information you are sending it.

The version of BASIC XL I have has several oddities about it. One of them is to ignore line returns directly after CHR\$(18) which is a heavy underline character that I use sometimes on the screen instead of a normal underline. Paperclip has so many I can't even start on it. Hopefully when I get my RAM upgrade and start using version 2.0 many of the bugs will go away.

Whenever you are programming or running a program and it doesn't do right you have to first look at



what you're doing and your code. Sometimes a solution is very near. If all else fails then very quietly turn the computer off, go in the garage and find a large piece of wood. Yelling profuse nerdy insults, run through the house smashing your computer to bits. Now, no more problem.

Actually, please don't do this. I wouldn't want to be blamed. I was looking at a disk the other day and I discovered something very interesting. They had hidden several files and they had done it very simply.

There are several ways of doing "copy protection" or obscurement of facts that are easy to do. I can format a disk with Spartados format, put a binary file on it and issue a DOBOOT command from DOS. Now this file will boot in instead of DOS and unless you have Spartados, you'll never see it.

Or I can append a file to DOS. You'll immediately see this when you go to a directory listing and see that DOS.SYS is 182 sectors long.

My last cutie is to erase the boot file from the directory and write a new file to the disk that covers up the hole. Normally this would wipe out a file but not the boot file, it gets pulled into the system by the first three sectors.

All of these methods and more don't copy protect a disk per se, they just make it more difficult for someone to pull the information off the disk as a file. When all else fails, one can dup the disk which brings me to my next point.

Several months back I saw a new wrinkle in pirating.

This unnamed individual had thoughtfully ripped the covers off his new unsold magazines so he could get credit for them. This is common practice for stores so they don't have to mail back the magazines. They just send back the covers and get credit for the unsold mags. The stores then destroy the magazines; however, this individual was selling the faceless mags for a buck or two.

One last thought: Last September 7,000 people went to Glendale to look at Atari's at a fair sponsored by local user groups. This year Acenet has grown, we have a chance to join it and if we do we can do more than simply go to the fair this September 18th and 20th, we can join it and participate in it.

Of course, that's only if you're interested... In any case plan on going to Glendale this fall to see what's new and what's available for your Atari.

See you at the Swap Meet. Until then, Happy Computing.

## DISK OF THE MONTH by Gerry Stotts

This month I had to write and tell you about what we have to offer! I have been a very busy boy for a couple of weeks.

Just to show you what is in all those newsletters that we exchange with other clubs, I have typed in enough programs to fill both sides of a disk! There are some winners on this that you haven't seen anywhere else!

I hope this sparks some interest in the paper library of exchange newsletters! There is a wealth of programs, information, hardware mods, etc., etc. on these disks.

I don't think more than a hand full of you even know they exist! We have at least five years worth of newsletters from some of the clubs! If you would like to see all those programs that I DIDN'T type in, see Ray Vigeant about the exchange library and check out some of those 'gold mines'!

## ST SIG

As most of the SIG members know, we now have no place to meet. We are still looking, but we need your help. If you have any ideas, let me know... the alternatives... meeting with the general club and breaking off after the regular meeting and severely shortening the time for ST specifics... Or, if the interest is not there, we can disband the St SIG, which I do not wish to see happen. But, I can not do it alone. I need the help of those of you who are still interested in continuing with the SIG.

We also need people who are willing to demonstrate that application program, favorite game or programming language that they are working with.

DON'T let your SIG die... It only takes a little effort on each of our parts to make it live and prosper.





# COMPUTER CONNECTION

**Santa Maria/Lompoc's NEWEST Computer Outlet!**

## 4th of JULY Specials...

STAR NX-10 PRINTER

List \$399.95

Sale: \$254.44

6-OUTLET SURGE/NOISE BAR

**List # 29.95**

Sale: \$ 12.44

**RIBBONS (Color or Black)**

Epson/C. Itoh/OKI/STAR...more - 25% off reg low price!

**In Stock NOW... MULTIDIRECTIONAL MONITOR STAND - \$11.44**

6-SWITCH SURGE/NOISE POWER PAD (holds monitor, or stand & monitor)

Reg. \$44.95

Sale: \$ 39.44

Prices good through JULY 18, 1987, just mention this ad...

**934 - 3655**



P.O. Box 2286

Santa Maria, Ca.

93455

SMLACE

